

Remarks

The Office Action mailed August 13, 2007 has been carefully reviewed, and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application. Claims 11-20 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Umemura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,871,234) ("Umemura") is respectfully traversed.

Umemura describes a steering wheel (1) that includes a core bar (2) having a ring core bar (3), a boss core bar (4), front spoke core bars (5), rear spoke core bars (8), and an air bag unit (28), where the airbag unit (28) is mounted across spoke core bars (5) and (8). At one end of spoke core bars (5) and (8), spoke core bars (5) and (8) are cast to envelope ring core bar (3). At the other end of spoke core bars (5) and (8), mounting portions (6) and (9) are formed such that mounting portions (6) and (9) intersect boss core bar (4). Notably, Umemura does not describe nor suggest a rotor blade installation tool that includes a brace coupled to a blade engagement end at a first end of the brace and a guide end coupled to a second end of the brace, where a handle extends from the brace between the first and second ends.

Claim 11 recites a rotor blade installation tool for coupling a plurality of rotor blades to a rotor disc wherein each rotor blade extends from the rotor disc to a radially outer blade tip, said tool comprising "a blade engagement end configured to engage the plurality of rotor blades between the rotor disc and the radially outer blade tip, said blade engagement end comprising an engagement top surface . . . at least one brace coupled to said blade engagement end at a first end of said at least one brace . . . at least one handle coupled to said at least one brace at a predetermined angle to facilitate inducing an axial force to the plurality of rotor blades . . . a guide end coupled to a second end of said at least one brace, said guide end comprising a guide end top surface positioned above said engagement top surface and a guide end opening extending therethrough, said at least one handle extending from said at least one brace between said brace first end and said brace second end."

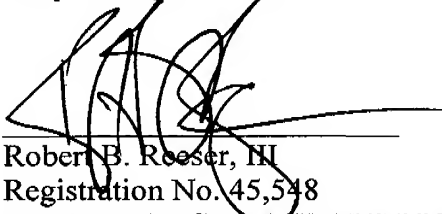
Umemura does not describe nor suggest a rotor blade installation tool for coupling a plurality of rotor blades to a rotor disc as is recited in Claim 11. Specifically, Umemura does not describe nor suggest a rotor blade installation tool having a blade engagement end, at least one brace coupled to the blade engagement end at a first end of the at least one brace, at least one handle coupled to the at least one brace, and a guide end coupled to a second end of the at least one brace, where the handle extends from the at least one brace between the brace first end and the brace second end. Rather, Umemura describes a steering wheel that includes a core bar having a ring core bar, a boss core bar, front spoke core bars, rear spoke core bars, and an air bag unit mounted across the spoke core bars, where one end of the spoke core bars is cast to envelope the ring core bar and the other end of the spoke core bars is formed with mounting portions that intersect the boss core bar. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 11 is submitted as being patentable over Umemura.

Claims 12-20 depend from independent Claim 11. When the recitations of Claims 12-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 11, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 12-20 likewise are patentable over Umemura.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 11-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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